

NEWS RELEASE

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The War on Cancer's shameful record: \$30 billion wasted, zero lives saved

Cancer cure 'too important' to leave to politicians, Libertarians say

WASHINGTON, DC — Bad news for millions of Americans who were desperately hoping that the government would save their lives: After spending \$30 billion, the government has lost the War on Cancer.

A startling analysis in the new issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine* reveals the government has spent \$30 billion since 1971 fighting the War on Cancer. The result: An increase in the cancer death rate — from 199 deaths per 100,000 population to 200.9 deaths.

"Politicians have accomplished only two things during their War on Cancer: Squandered billions of dollars and broken their promises," said Steve Dasbach, the national chairman of the Libertarian Party. "Like almost every war waged by the government — the War on Poverty, the War on Drugs, the War on Homelessness — the politicians have failed.

"It's time for the government to admit defeat, stop wasting our money, and leave this struggle to those who might actually win it."

Despite the billions spent by the government, 550,000 Americans a year die from cancer.

"Imagine how many of those Americans might be alive today if private laboratories, rather than politicians, had decided how to spend that \$30 billion," Dasbach said. "Profit-making companies have a tremendous incentive to cure cancer that public employees lack: A chance to reap billions in profits from inventing breakthrough drugs."

Ironically, as the *New England Journal of Medicine's* report went to press, the same government that failed to cure cancer was busy prosecuting a physician who was succeeding.

Doctor Stanislaw Burzynski was tried by federal prosecutors in Houston last month for distributing a breakthrough drug to brain cancer victims without FDA approval — a drug that over 300 of his patients believe is keeping them alive.

"Incredibly, at the very moment the trial was going on, the government was using Burzynski's drug — antineoplaston — in clinical tests," Dasbach said. "That's because the FDA now believes the drug has the potential to save lives, but was too stubborn to drop charges against the doctor who invented it.

"Politicians and bureaucrats who have failed to cure cancer should not prosecute pioneering doctors who are keeping people alive."

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